

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed prior to initial review of subject Application.
Applicant has canceled claims 1-28, without prejudice, and has added new claims 29-44.
Applicant respectfully requests examination of all pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 29-44 define the subject invention over the prior art of record. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

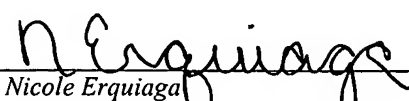
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By



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